

## **Software & Information Industry Assoc. Says Wiretapping Legislation Must Deliver Balance Between Security Needs and Innovation Imperative**

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), the principal trade association for the software and digital content industries, today joined multiple associations and industry groups in [urging policymakers](#) to proceed with caution in expanding the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA). The law, enacted in 1994, requires telecommunications carriers to design wiretapping capabilities into their networks, and the FCC extended these requirements to providers of broadband Internet access and interconnected VoIP services in 2005. In a joint statement issued today, the group of organizations offered broad goals to guide the debate and stressed threshold questions and key principles for reform.

SIIA President Ken Wasch today released the following statement:

“This debate raises questions about how to balance security needs with protecting privacy and fostering innovation. As policymakers consider expanding CALEA to Internet communications applications, it is imperative that new mandates do not compromise security, stifle innovation, delay or prevent cutting-edge communication technologies from coming to market, or give foreign competitors an advantage of U.S. companies.

“SIIA concurs with the widely-held belief that lawful electronic surveillance plays an important role in enabling government agencies to fulfill their obligations to stop crime and to protect national security. However we believe it is only after a thorough review and engagement by the private sector should even narrow, targeted changes be considered.

“SIIA joined in this broad effort to stress the need for policymakers to remain focused on the specific problems that must be addressed in reform of CALEA, to encourage the pursuit of alternative approaches that do not involve technology mandates, and to explore ways in which industry may be able to voluntarily adopt practices that address many key problems.”

### **About SIIA**

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to more than 500 leading software and information companies. **The SIIA Software Division** provides a forum for companies developing the applications, services, infrastructure and tools that are driving the software and services industry forward. For further information, visit [www.sii.net/software](http://www.sii.net/software)